



General Assembly, Warsaw, Poland, 2008

Report of the 43rd General Assembly of the ESSR, Warsaw 2008

Time and place: Friday, May 23, 2007, from 18:00h-20:00h. Warsaw 2008, Poland.

Present: 28 members were present at the opening of the General Assembly (GA).

Agenda:

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Secretary General
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of the Congress President 2008 (G Szczesny)
5. Report of the Congress President 2009 (R Demaria)
6. Election of new members
7. Election of new members of the General Committee
8. Election of Congress Venue 2011
9. Varia

1. Report of the President: Brigitte Vollmar

The president reported on the deed with the British Journal of Surgery Society, which is effective with January 1st, 2008. *British Journal of Surgery* is now the official journal of the ESSR. The president outlines the most important issues of the deed between BJS Society and ESSR, which fit best with the current needs of the Society and allow further promoting high standards of surgical research within a European network.

The President announced that the Internet Course on Surgical Research is launched since January 2008. The ESSR members are encouraged to visit the websites (<http://www.surgical-research.com>) and to pass the course for free. The President thanked Miguel Cainzos for his major efforts in designing, establishing and launching this course. The president further thanks the authors for their participation in this educational project of the ESSR.

The President informed that Mihaly Boros who already keeps the ESSR archives agreed to issue a second 'golden book' comprising the history of the ESSR with details of the annual meetings from 1989 until now. The updated book will be presented at the 44th ESSR congress next year in France. The president thanked M. Boros for his willingness and his efforts.

The President further informed that the General Committee has established a detailed checklist for planning and organizing an ESSR congress, providing helpful information for forthcoming presidents.

The president reported the attendance of the congress of the SUS in Birmingham, UK during January 2008. The meeting was well organized and of remarkably high scientific standard. In addition, the Walter-Brendel Awardee was adequately announced and integrated in the program.

2. Report of the Secretary General: Henrik Thorlacius

The SG reported that Gabor Eros was the first winner of the ESSR Fellowship Award. Gabor Eros is from the Institute of Surgical Research, University of Szeged, Hungary (Mihaly Boros) and visited the Institute for Experimental Surgery, University of Rostock, Germany (Brigitte Vollmar). The project was called "Dietary phospholipids and chronic inflammation" and the outcome will be reported by Gabor Eros at the ESSR congress in Nimes 2009. Unfortunately, the SG received only one application and the continuation of this award was discussed at the General Assembly. It was decided to continue one more year for a new evaluation in Nimes, 2009. Hopefully, more applications will be submitted this year. All ESSR members are urged to submit proposals (more information is below in the newsletter and on the www.essr.info).

The SG reported on his travel to the SUS – sister society meeting at 3rd Annual Academic Surgical Congress, Huntington Beach, CA, 12-15 February 2007.

The GC has discussed the need to find a British Journal of Surgery (BJS) representative of the ESSR. Since the Deed with the British Journal of Surgery, the contacts with the BJS are very important for ESSR and a special person should handle this task. The GC suggested to the General Assembly that such a person should be selected from the GC for a period of five years and that this person continues this task even after his or her term has formally ended in the GC. This BJS representative then continues to attend the GC meeting to report on the contacts with British Journal of Surgery but has no formal position to vote in the GC. The BJS representative also sits on the British Journal of Surgery editorial board during these five years. The GC suggested Brigitte Vollmar to be the first BJS representative from 2008-2013. These proposals were approved by the General Assembly.

The SG also proclaimed that the newsletter will be posted on the web-site (www.essr.info) and not sent by email since not all emails of the ESSR members are known/correct and that those regularly change.

Iren Miko has resigned from the Award Committee and his work has been appreciated by the ESSR. Iren Miko has proposed Norbert Nemeth from Debrecen, Hungary and the General Assembly approved Norbert Nemeth for the Award Committee by majority hand-vote.

3. Report of the Treasurer (I Garcia-Alonso)

The treasurer presented the balance to 08-04-30.

This has been the first time in many years that the membership fee has been collected directly by the Treasurer of the Society. During the first four months of 2008, 86 members had cleared their fee, 4 members had tried unsuccessfully to pay, 11 invoices forms had been returned (incorrect mail addresses). Thus, 196 members still have to pay their membership fee.

Payments through bank checks or bank transfer have been extremely ineffective (as the bank charges up to 21€ from every fee of 30€). And so it is strongly recommended to pay through credit card.

For 2009, those members who would prefer to pay three or five years in advance, the option will be ready.

The Treasurer presented his data about the evolution of registered ESSR members and fees collected for the last nine years. Though there is a steady increase in the number of

registered members, the number of paying members has been declining for the last seven years.=

The financial report for the year 2007 and the first trimester of 2008 are given below. The report was approved by the Trustees of the Society.

YEAR 2007		YEAR 2008	
Balance to 06-12-31	42.149,65	Balance to 07-12-31	36.452,86
Travel costs	2.151,65	Travel costs	1.040,61
Awards	1.750,00	Awards	0,00
Administrative costs	1.879,87	Administrative costs	118,34
Other	15,27	Other	68,24
Total payments	5.796,79	Total payments	1.227,19
Receipts	100,00	Receipts	11.225,00
Balance 06-12-31 to 07-12-31	-5.696,79	Balance 07-12-31 to 08-04-30	9.997,81
Balance to 07-12-31	36.452,86	Balance to 08-04-30	46.450,67

4. Report of the Congress President 2008 (G Szczesny)

Dr. Szczesny reported that the organisers have had some problems with financial side of the congress in Warsaw although the details were difficult to understand. Dr. Szczesny also said that the intention is to pay the 8000 Euro to the Society for holding the ESSR congress but as yet (2008-09-20) no payment has been sent to the Treasurer of ESSR.

5. Report of the Congress President 2009 (R Demaria)

Roland Demaria presented the progress and details around the 44th ESSR Congress in Nimes, France. The planning of the congress is active and seems to be on-schedule. We all look forward to come to Nimes next year.

6. Election of new members

New applicants for ESSR membership

Wolfgang Dubiel, Berlin
Osman Yuksel, Ankara
Heiko Sorg, Rostock
Yves Harder, Geneva
Ali Modarressi, Geneva
Reto Wettstein, Geneva
Farid Rezaein, Geneva
Michael Raschke, Munster
Pascal Dohmen, Berlin
Christine Bruns, Munich

Jiro Fujimoto, Hyogo
Yuri Ilmuro, Hyogo
Hande Koksall, Konya
Homis Sener, Izmir
Barend Mees, Rotterdam
Mario Testini, Bari
Uwe Roblick, Luebeck
Martin Rucker, Hannover
Gabriel Eros, Szeged
Mehmet Can, Ankara

Klaus-Dieter Schaser, Berlin
 Ulrich Hopt, Freiburg
 Frank Dor, Rotterdam
 Arndt Schulz, Luebeck
 Alexander Schachtrupp, Melsungen
 Marie-Claire Schreinemachers, Amsterdam

Christina Steene, Malmo
 Andrada Mihescu, Malmo
 Diya Adawi, Malmo
 Michel M. Dard, Basel
 Bendict Doorschodt, Amsterdam

Total 31 applications.

All were approved for ESSR membership by majority hand-vote by the General Assembly.

7. Election of new members of the General Committee

The SG reported on the vacant position in the GC as Member-at-Large after the term of Efsthios Antoniou has ended. The GC appreciates and wants to thank Efsthios Antoniou for his work in the GC the last six years.

Nominated for the position as Member-at-Large were Rene Schramm, Steffen Manekeller and Grzegorz Szczesny. In an anonymous vote, Steffen Manekeller received 11 votes. Rene Schramm and Grzegorz Szczesny received 10 and 7 votes, respectively. Thus, the General Assembly voted Steffen Manekeller in the General Committee.

Mustafa Cikirikcioglu was elected into the General Committee as 2 vice president as becoming Congress President in 2010.

Name	Present and past functions	Position elected	Position ends	Remarks	Possible time to serve (max 6 years)
<i>Brigitte Vollmar</i>	President Past 1 and 2 vice president, Past member at large	2007	2010	Congress president 2006	2004-2010
<i>Henrik Thorlacius</i>	Secretary General Past member at large	2007	2010		2006-2012
<i>Ignacio Garcia-Alonso</i>	Treasurer Past member at large	2006	2009		2005-2011
<i>Roland Demaria</i>	1 vice president	2007	2008	Congress President 2009	2006-2012
<i>Steffen Manekeller</i>	Member at large	2008	2011		2008-2014
<i>Mustafa Sahin</i>	Member at large, Past 1 and 2 vice president	2005	2008	Congress President 2005	2003-2009
<i>Ian Alwayn</i>	Member at large, Past 1 and 2 vice president	2007	2010	Congress President 2007	2005-2011
<i>Charles Malata</i>	Member at large	2007	2010		2007-2013
<i>Mustafa Cikirikcioglu</i>	2 vice president	2008	2009	Congress President 2010, 1 Vice President 2009	2008-2014

8. Election of Congress Venue 2011

Two proposals were received by the Secretary General, and these candidates presented their application during the GA. Dr. RH Tolba presented Aachen, Germany, while Dr. Osman Yuksel presented Antalya, Turkey as possible 2011 venue.

Following anonymous vote, Aachen was approved as the congress venue 2011 by 17 votes against 11. Congratulations!

9. Varia

Mustafa Cikirikcioglu presented the venue and plans for the 45th ESSR Congress in Geneva. The General Assembly asked some general questions and wished Mustafa Cikirikcioglu good luck with his congress plans.

The President closed the General Assembly at 20:00h.

44th ESSR Congress Nimes, France, 2009

The 44th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research, Nimes, France will be held 20 - 23 May 2009. More information can be obtained from the congress president (roland.demaria@wanadoo.fr).

Welcome!

Internet Course on Surgical Research, 2008

The European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR) is organising an Internet Course on Surgical Research under the direction of Prof. Miguel Caínzos (Santiago de Compostela, Spain), chair of the Scientific Studies and Education Committee and former President of our Society.

The course will cover the most important aspects of surgical research, as well as those areas which are of considerable relevance to all surgeons, such as the general aspects of research in surgery, molecular biological methods in surgical research, wound healing, microcirculation, research in gastroenterology, cardiovascular models, trauma, burn injury, sepsis, intra-abdominal adhesions, cancer, transplantation, robotics and telesurgery, etc.

ESSR Fellowship Award, 2009

Numerous members of ESSR are conducting important research, however, the collaboration within the ESSR is today minimal. Therefore, the GC proposed to install the "ESSR Fellowship Award" for the second time, which was supported by a majority at the General Assembly in Warsaw 2008. The creation of the ESSR fellowship award is intended to increase collaboration in surgical research within the ESSR.

Application: The application for the ESSR fellowship should include a candidate who is a paying member of ESSR. The project should involve at least two departments from different countries within the ESSR. The application should describe a project plan (1-2 pages) stating the aim, background, work plan, methods, importance and budget signed by all involved departments. The hosts of the different departments must be paying members of ESSR. The deadline for the application is set to **February 1st, 2009** and should be submitted to the General Secretary, Henrik Thorlacius.

The application should contain

- Project plan (aim, background, work plan, methods, importance and budget)
- CV and publications of the candidate
- CV and publications of the hosts

Please indicate whether applicants are paying members of ESSR.

Selection: The General Committee will select the best project based on scientific merits. The decision will be announced on the ESSR congress in Warsaw, Poland 2006 at the General Assembly.

Amount: 3000 Euro.

Scientific Report: One year after receiving the ESSR fellowship, the candidate must report the outcome at the ESSR congress. This presentation will be given a separate and distinct place in the scientific program on the opening day after the Brendel Award session.

Detailed information is also posted on the ESSR website.

With our best regards,



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